

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of testing for the presence of ~~infectious disease agents~~ human papillomavirus or host genetic markers comprising: applying a device comprising an absorbent and porous material onto the introitus of a female patient to collect vaginal discharge, either briefly as an imprint or swab, or over a period of time; encouraging air drying of ~~at least a portion of~~ the collected vaginal discharge ~~while the device is proximate to the introitus~~; and determining the presence of ~~infectious disease agents~~ human papillomavirus or host genetic markers in the ~~at least partially~~ air-dried vaginal discharge.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the device is a regular or disposable underwear.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing the dried vaginal discharge in a container, without added desiccants, preservatives or other additives.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 1 wherein the steps of determining the presence of human papillomavirus comprises nucleic acid amplification and specific identification of the amplified product(s).
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the host ~~genomic~~ genetic markers are of malignant or pre-malignant transformation of cellular DNA.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the host ~~genomic~~ genetic markers are of cellular mRNA.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 where the mRNA is selectively amplified, identified and quantified.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)